

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 SY-03 MC-02 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /157 W

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R 221507Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9499

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1182

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SF, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER SMITH DISCUSSES SECURITY ON TV

1. SPEAKING ON TELEVISED PANEL INTERVIEW PROGRAM IN RHODESIA
MARCH 21, PRIME MINISTER SMITH DISCUSSED RHODESIAN SECURITY
SITUATION, MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS ACCORDING TO SOUTH AFRICAN
NEWS MEDIA:

A. CONVENTIONAL WARFARE SITUATION "A LONG WAY OFF" AND,
ALTHOUGH "ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN," HE BELIEVED THAT "IN THE
FORESEEABLE FUTURE," PRESENT TYPE OF GUERRILLA WARFARE
WOULD CONTINUE. SMITH ALSO ASSERTED THAT RHODESIA CAN
"LOOK FORWARD CONFIDENTLY TO CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT."

B. STATING THAT IT "UNWISE TO DISCUSS IN PUBLIC FORUM THIS
SORT OF SUBJECT," SMITH DENIED THAT SAG HAD OFFERED TO REPLACE
ITS POLICE IN RHODESIA WITH TROOPS.

C. SAG, ACCORDING TO SMITH, BELIEVES SOUTH AFRICA AND
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RHODESIA IN "SAME BOAT" AND, WHEN WESTERN CIVILIZATION

AFFECTED," IT IS NECESSARY FOR US TO WORK TOGETHER".

D. SMITH EXPRESSED CONCERN "AT THE MANNER IN WHICH TERRORISTS DO SEEM TO HAVE GAINED GROUND IN MOZAMBIQUE" AND ADMITTED THAT DRAMATIC CHANGE OR COLLAPSE IN MOZAMBIQUE "WOULD DE UNFORTUNATE FOR RHODESIA."

E. SMITH CLAIMED THAT FOLLOWING BORDER CLOSURE LAST YEAR, ZAMBIA GOVERNMENT OPERATING FROM ITS TERRITORY.ZAMBIA, HOWEVER,STATED IT "IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO GIVE A GUARANTEE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO TERRORIST INCURSIONS,THAT THERE WOULD BE NO TERRORISTS USING ZAMBIA SOIL." SMITH HAD TO CONCEDE IMPOSSIBILITY OF ANY COUNTRY GIVING "SUCH AN UNDERTAKING."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLICE FORCES, BORDER INCIDENTS, BORDER CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PRETOR01182
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740062-0457
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740322/aaaaauqd.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2002 by elbezeifj>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER SMITH DISCUSSES SECURITY ON TV
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SF, RH, ZA, MZ, (SMITH, IAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005